

THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN N. B., WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24, 1912

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ST. JOHN, N. B., APRIL 24, 1912.

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THE COMMISSION

The commission plan of government in St. John will be inaugurated by the first council of the five members of the first council are strong supporters of the plan. It is true that three out of the original five candidates nominated by the Citizens' Committee have been defeated, but Mayor Frink, who is elected, was offered a place on that ticket, and Mr. McLellan, when he announced his candidacy, also declared himself in favor of the commission plan.

The electors who endorsed the action of the Citizens' Committee a year ago, by adopting the new system of city government by an overwhelming majority, have seen fit to reject three of the men whom this same Citizens' Committee nominated as desirable persons to introduce the new system. Whether they will have any reason to regret their action remains to be seen. On the whole, the new commission is a strong one and ought to give the city good government. There is no doubt at all that the action of the Citizens' Committee made possible the election of a stronger council than would have been chosen had they not put candidates in the field. While they did not carry all their own, they at least have the satisfaction of knowing that the old influences will no longer control civic affairs, and this was greatly to be desired.

The honors of the day unquestionably go to Mr. McLellan. He came into the field alone, and his personal popularity, and the very evident belief of a large majority of the electors that he would prove a good commissioner, placed him at the head of the poll. If he is a successful introduction of the new system, he has been in the campaign, even the gentlemen whom he defeated will be glad that he was successful.

The contest between Mr. Frink and Mr. Bullock for the mayoralty was extremely close, and it is evident that if Mr. Bullock had been an advocate and supporter of the commission plan he would have won. The fate was unkind to Mr. Frink and Mr. Bullock, who had Mr. Allan by only 28 votes, is the survivor of the old aldermanic regime. His survival is not due to any public sympathy for the old order of things, nor yet to his brilliant record as an alderman, but his friends have given him another chance. The defeat of Mr. Allingham is apparently due to two causes. One was that some citizens were not in favor of any candidate who might be regarded as the representative of labor. On the other hand the labor men themselves, who might have been expected to support so worthy a representative, took the opposite course and repudiated Mr. Allingham; for not only Mr. Maxwell nominated as a labor candidate, but posters were put up about the city, declaring him to be the only labor candidate. The Times believes that Mr. Allingham would have made a good commissioner. It will be observed that he polled a considerably larger vote than either Mr. McGoldrick or Mr. Potts, and that he was not nearly as far behind three other candidates as they were behind Mr. Schofield.

There is no comfort in the result of yesterday's election for the opponents of the commission plan. They were unable to prevent the election of four of its friends out of the five chosen. The extraordinary course pursued by the Globe, which in March called for a commission ticket, and on the eve of the election protested against such a ticket, and dachly hinted that these men were nominated by persons with sinister motives, will probably not be forgotten by those business men who gave up so much of their time and effort, during the last year and a half to secure for the city a better system of government.

The campaign being over, all right-minded citizens will be disposed to give the men who have been elected a fair field and their good wishes. The task before them is by no means an easy one. Mr. Sherman of Cedar Rapids said that the first commission in that city found it necessary, during the first year, to work much harder than they had ever done in their own business. The citizens of St. John have discarded the old form of government because they were convinced that the administration of the various departments did not give anything like the best possible results. It will be for Mayor Frink and Commissioners McLellan, Schofield, Wignome and Agar to meet the details of administration, introduce better methods, and in a fearless manner make whatever changes are deemed necessary in the public interest.

THE CITIZENS' COMMITTEE

The Globe and other opponents of commission were horrified at the audacity of Mr. W. H. Barnaby, chairman of the Citizens' Committee, when he expressed the view that the committee should continue in existence after the elections, to admonish or encourage the commissioners from time to time as occasion might suggest. This remark was seized upon to arouse prejudice and to be the basis of dark hints about a clique in the board of trade that wanted to control the city. The Times hopes that the Citizens' Committee will not be dissolved, but that its influence will be felt in civic affairs. It would both stimulate and encourage the commissioners, and an occasional meeting and public discussion of important matters affecting the city's welfare would do good. In the past there has been entirely too little public interest in civic affairs. Having secured the new system of government, and a

strong commission to set it in operation, the Citizens' Committee should not withdraw from the field, but continue to take an active interest in public affairs. There is not, nor ever has been any suggestion, except from its enemies, that it would attempt to hold a club over the heads of the commissioners. Its purpose would be to encourage and assist them in giving the city a better administration, and none would appreciate its action more than the commissioners themselves.

Indeed, on this point we have so excellent an authority as the St. John Globe, which on March 9 said:—"The new system is deserving of a fair trial, and it will have a better chance for a fair trial if its promoters take up the burden of directing its operations." The Globe was then shouting for a commission ticket, believing that none would be named, and seeking to embarrass the friends of commission; but its remarks are quoted were quite right.

WAR IN THE CAMP

The Frederick Gleason, in an editorial nearly a column in length, attacks Mr. A. R. Gould, president of the company which has the contract to build the Valley Railway. It casts a doubt upon the bona fides of Mr. Gould, and his financial ability to carry out the contract. Doubtless this is an inspired article. What does it mean?

The Frederick correspondent of the Telegraph intimates that Mr. Gould has not manifested sufficient eagerness to make a large contribution to the fund with which the government will purify politics in the coming elections. This may be so. Mr. Gould is a railway contractor and an American citizen. He may not know that the best government on earth is the Flemming government of New Brunswick, and that it should be kept in power if it costs a million. If he is thus ignorant he must be informed and disciplined, and what better agent could be chosen for the task than that patriotic and independent journal of reform the Frederick Gleason?

Mr. Gould, it must be admitted, displays a callous indifference which is not encouraging. He says he is financially all right, and ready to go on with the work. That hungry henchmen from the outside are clamoring for pure election funds may worry Mr. Flemming, but not, apparently, Mr. Gould. It is a very interesting situation.

The Standard yesterday that they accept no dictation in the affairs of civic government." It was a year ago the people first gave the demonstration, when they declared for commission government by an overwhelming majority, although the Standard sent a man all the way to Iowa to bolster up its policy of dictation. They demonstrated again yesterday when only one of the Standard's favorites emerged from the wreck of the old regime.

\$100 Reward, \$100

The readers of this paper will be pleased to learn that there is at least one dreaded disease that science has been able to cure in all its stages, and that is Catarrh. Hall's Catarrh Cure is the only positive cure now known to the medical fraternity. Catarrh being a constitutional disease, requires a constitutional treatment. Hall's Catarrh Cure is taken internally, acting directly upon the blood and mucous surfaces of the system, thereby destroying the foundation of the disease, and giving the patient strength by building up the constitution and assisting nature in doing its work. The proprietors have so much faith in its curative powers that they offer One Hundred Dollars for any case that it fails to cure. Send for list of testimonials.

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John Roy, of Manchester, N. H., a grandfather to more grandchildren, it is believed, than any other man in New England. Mr. Roy is the father of 12 children.

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MORE TROUBLE

Hubby—"I dreamed last night that your mother was ill."

Wife—"Brute! I heard you laugh in your sleep!"

DOOMED

Midnight, and in the smoking-room of the club sat a young man huddled in a chair.

A friend entered.

"Hallo, Smith," he asked cheerily, "not going home yet?"

"No," muttered the despairing one. "I don't want to."

"Why, what's the matter?"

"Matter? It's the end of everything. It means ruin, grief and a spoiled life!"

The friend looked frightened.

"Here, Smith, tell me what's up. Perhaps I can help you."

Smith clenched his fist till the knuckles showed white.

"No one can help me," he cried, in agony. "I have come to the end of all things. At eight o'clock I telephoned my wife and gave her a perfectly good excuse for not coming straight home, and his voice sank to a whisper. 'I've forgotten what I said!'"

"Answers."

"He is a genius!" cried Mrs. Smith. "I feel it!"

"He will become an inventor," said Smith, with enthusiasm.

"Or a soldier," suggested Mrs. Smith, "for he is so beautiful."

"Or a musician," guessed Mr. Smith, "for his voice reminds me of the music of Mendelssohn."

"Or a soldier," suggested Mr. Smith. "He is so active!"

"Or a great politician," exclaimed Mr. Smith, with enthusiasm.

"But why a politician?" queried the wife, in rather disappointed tones.

"Because, my dear," came the reply, "he crawls out of everything so easily!"

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IF YOU HAVE HEED THE WARNING.

You get a pain in your back, and you wonder what it is the matter. When the back aches or becomes weak it is a warning that the kidneys are affected in some way.

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